

This vital transportation project cuts through the heart of my congressional district, and I strongly believe that the safety of my constituents should not be put at risk by the shoddy work of inexperienced strikebreakers and the corporate recklessness of Rocky Mountain's executives.

Since the decision to terminate its workforce eighteen months ago, Rocky Mountain Steel has reportedly encountered serious quality problems with its manufactured products. Under no circumstances should the well-being of BART's hundreds of thousands of regular commuters be jeopardized by this corporation's careless and irresponsible behavior.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the initiative taken by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to urge BART to end its purchases of Rocky Mountain Steel. The company's striking steelworkers deserve better, and the safety of Bay Area commuters demands no less.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA AND JAY
VINCENT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute two very special individuals, Barbara and Jay Vincent of Richmond, California. Barbara and Jay each deserve recognition in their own right for the countless hours they have individually given to their community. From Barbara's leadership with the PTA, League of Women Voters and the Richmond Planning Commission, to Jay's involvement with the YMCA, Richmond Farmers' Market and the East Brother Light Station restoration, the Vincents' commitment has touched every corner of the City.

Yet, perhaps the greatest contribution Barbara and Jay have made to the future of Richmond is their tireless efforts to preserve our region's open space and natural resources. Long appreciating the beauty of the San Francisco Bay and its habitats, the Vincents have worked to ensure that the Richmond shoreline will continue to be accessible and enjoyed by generations to come. It is indeed fitting that the City of Richmond recently honored these efforts by dedicating the Barbara and Jay Vincent Park, a spectacular bayside site with sweeping vistas of San Francisco, the Golden Gate Bridge, Angel Island, and Mt. Tamalpais.

It has been my distinct honor and pleasure to know and work with the Vincents during my tenure in the U.S. Congress. Their personal dedication to community service has always been an exceptional source of inspiration. I know my colleagues join me today in celebrating their many accomplishments, and in expressing our deepest appreciation.

COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with a heavy heart, but a heart that is buoyed

by thoughts of hope and inspiration. In a little over a week, the first day of school begins at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, which is located in my district.

We can all remember the first day of school and the excitement that went along with it. The anticipation for the year ahead and what it would bring. The exhilarating feeling of seeing friends, joining new clubs and sports teams, and being a part of something special. I doubt that many of us would ever trade our experiences in high school for anything.

Tragically, more than 2,000 students will begin school at Columbine without twelve of their classmates, and one teacher. These individuals are not among them not because they have graduated and gone onto college or moved to another town and now attend another school. They are not pursuing passions such as being a Navy pilot, fishing, singing, playing football, traveling to France, acting, playing music, working as a missionary, playing volleyball, praying, or being a father. They are not with them, because they were the victims of a senseless and destructive act that took place April 20, 1999.

Among these students will be twenty-two individuals who were wounded during the events of April 20th and are hoping to return to school this year. These students and teachers face challenges in the coming days and beyond that no one should have to face in the future. Richard Castaldo, Sean Graves, Anne Marie Hochhalter, Lance Kirkin, Kasey Ruegsegger, Patrick Ireland, Mark Taylor, Jennifer Doyle, Makai Hall, Mark Kintgen, Nicole, Nowlen, Danny Steepleton, Brian Anderson, Stephen Austin Eubanks, Nicholas Foss, Joyce Jankowski, Adam Kyler, Stephanie Munson, Patricia Nielsen, Charles Simmons, Evan Todd, and Michael Johnson are strong enough to stand up and begin another chapter in their lives, a chapter that we will help them write by giving them every opportunity to have a year of safe and enjoyable memories. Three of the wounded, Valeen Schnurr, Lisa Kreutz, and Jeanna Park, received their diplomas last Spring, and have now begun the important step of continuing on with life after such a tragic event.

This tragedy has caused us as Americans to reevaluate and reflect on our own moral and social values and to reexamine the role that we play as parents, relatives, and family members in the lives of our nation's children. This tragedy has driven many of us to work to bring not only healing, but also a reformation of our way of life. Everyone who lives in America felt what happened to those students. The phrase, "it can't happen in my backyard" is now gone for the residents of the Sixth District.

I do, however, feel hope and inspiration today. I feel a sense of hope when I see and hear the determination and genuine concern that individuals have when discussing our schools and a desire to make them a safe and prosperous environment. I feel a great sense of inspiration in these students and teachers who are walking back through the same doors they ran out on April 20, 1999. In fact, as of August 2, no students had applied for a transfer from Columbine. We are witnessing real courage.

I ask that my colleagues in the United States Congress, any my fellow citizens, pray

for the students of Columbine High School as they start a new year. Pray that the smiles of youth return to these students. Pray that we have the power and the faith to do our part to ensure that this horrible violation of innocence is never repeated again.

And, most of all, pray for the families of: Cassie Bernall, Steven Curnow, Corey DePooter, Kelly Fleming, Matthew Kechter, Daniel Mauser, Daniel Rohrbough, Rachel Scott, Isaiah Shoels, John Tomlin, Lauren Townsend, Kyle Velazques, and Dave Sanders, the twelve students and one teacher who will not be starting school this year.

HONORING ST. BARTHOLOMEW
SCHOOL ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the St. Bartholomew School in Elmhurst, Queens on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary.

St. Bartholomew has been in the forefront of providing a quality value-based education to the children of the community for three-quarters of a century. The School, the third largest Catholic parochial school in the entire Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens, currently has an enrollment of some 650 students and is accredited by the prestigious Middle States Association.

St. Bart's, as it is affectionately known, first opened its doors in 1923, and has since then been an integral and significant element in the life of the Elmhurst community. Elmhurst was recently identified in the September issue of National Geographic magazine as "Elmhurst 11373, the most ethnically diverse zip code in the United States." Affiliated with St. Bartholomew Roman Catholic Parish, St. Bart's School ably reflects that rich diversity of heritage in a most enthusiastic way, welcoming students of many religions and national origins to participate in its outstanding academic program.

In addition to a full schedule of academic subjects, students in all grades receive instruction in computer skills, physical education, and library science, and participate in a host of interesting and informative clubs and extracurricular activities. But most importantly, the religious and lay faculty cooperate in striving for the utmost creativity in education, emphasizing values and excellence in an atmosphere of healthy academic discipline.

Finally, I would like to commend Sister Augusta Conter, o.p., Principal, and Mr. Thomas Straczynski, Social Studies teacher and Chairman of the 75th Anniversary Committee, as well as all of the committee members whose tireless efforts made the anniversary and its many events a tremendous success.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying this 75th Anniversary tribute to a superb institution of learning and to the people who help make it all possible.